

FIRST
COMICS
1982 1987
FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY
APR 1988
34
\$1.75 \$2.45
CANADA

BADGER

TM



WHO ARE THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?



The Badger is **Norbert Sykes**, a Vietnam veteran suffering from an extremely rare multiple personality disorder, which has its origins in childhood trauma. Seven great personalities in one. The personality most frequently inhabited by Norbert, indeed almost *exclusively preferred*, is the Badger, a self-styled crime fighter who rides the highways and by-ways of America, meting out bloody justice to jaywalkers, ticket scalpers, indifferent teenaged fast food clerks, in fact, *any damn body he feels like because he's CRAZY!*

Badger is an expert at hand-to-hand combat. He began his training in Shorin-ryu but has since gone on to master dozens of obscure, esoteric, arcane, not to mention obtruse martial arts, the likes of which you seldom hear about.

He can also talk to the animals — just like Dr. Doolittle, or Lorne Greene. Only Badger gets better results than Lorne Greene.

Badger lives with **Ham the Weather Wizard** in a castle south of Barneveld, Wisconsin. Ham and Badger met while both were inmates at a state mental hospital. Through cunning and chicanery, Ham has amassed a considerable fortune.

LAST ISSUE: Badger went to the land down under to drink some brews, bash some heads, and team up with a character by the name of **Kid Kang**. Now he's back in Wisconsin, just driving along, minding his own business. Huh, doesn't sound like much of a story does it? Maybe it'll pick up on the next page...

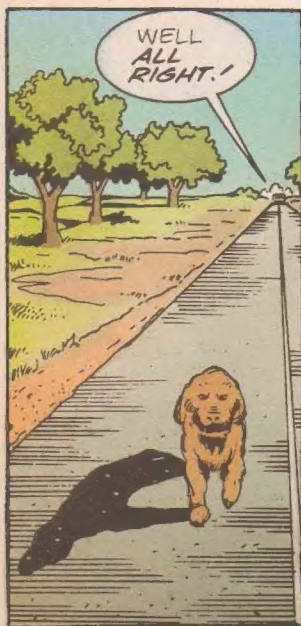
Rick Obadiah, Publisher
Kathy Kotsivas, Operations Dir.
Kurt Goldzung, Sales Mgr.
Ralph Musicant, Finance Dir.

Rick Oliver, Editorial Director
Alex Wald, Art Director
Rich Markow, Ed. Coordinator
Rick Taylor, Production Mgr.

BADGER™ Vol. 1, No. 34, April 1988. Published by FIRST COMICS, INC., OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610. Published monthly. Copyright © 1987 First Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. Price: \$1.75 in the U.S. Subscription rates for twelve issues: \$21.00 in the U.S., \$23.00 in Canada, and \$40.00 foreign rate. All payments must be in U.S. funds. The stories, incidents, and characters mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional. No actual person, living or dead, without satiric content, are intended or should be inferred. The Badger, Clonezone and all prominent characters featured in this issue are trademarks of First Comics, Inc. Printed in the U.S.A. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changed to **Badger**, c/o First Comics, Inc., 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610.

A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION





BADGER UNDERDOG



SCRIPT
MIKE
BARON

PENCILS
RON
LIM

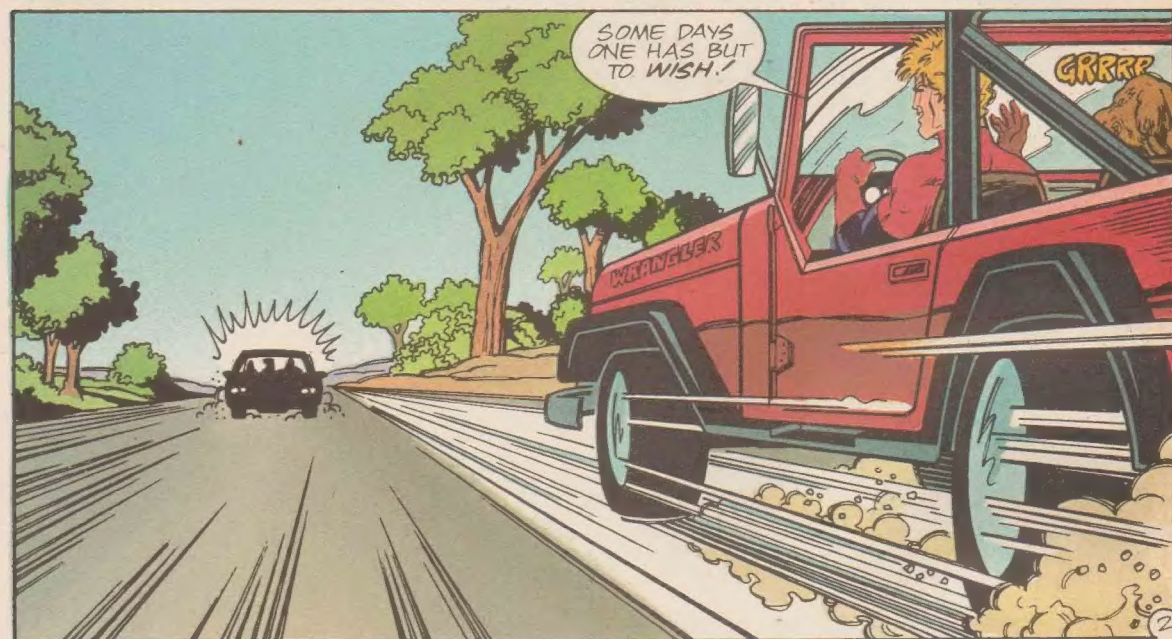
INKS
JAY
GELDHOF

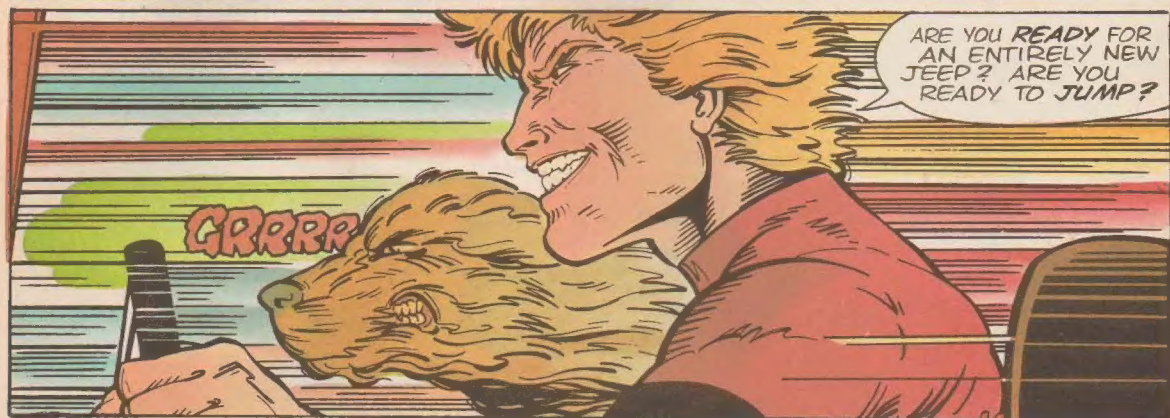
COLORS
RAY
MURTAUGH

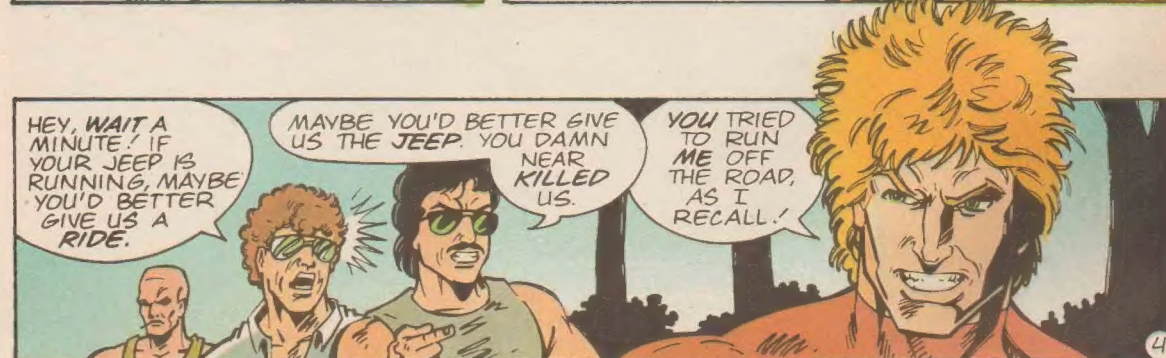
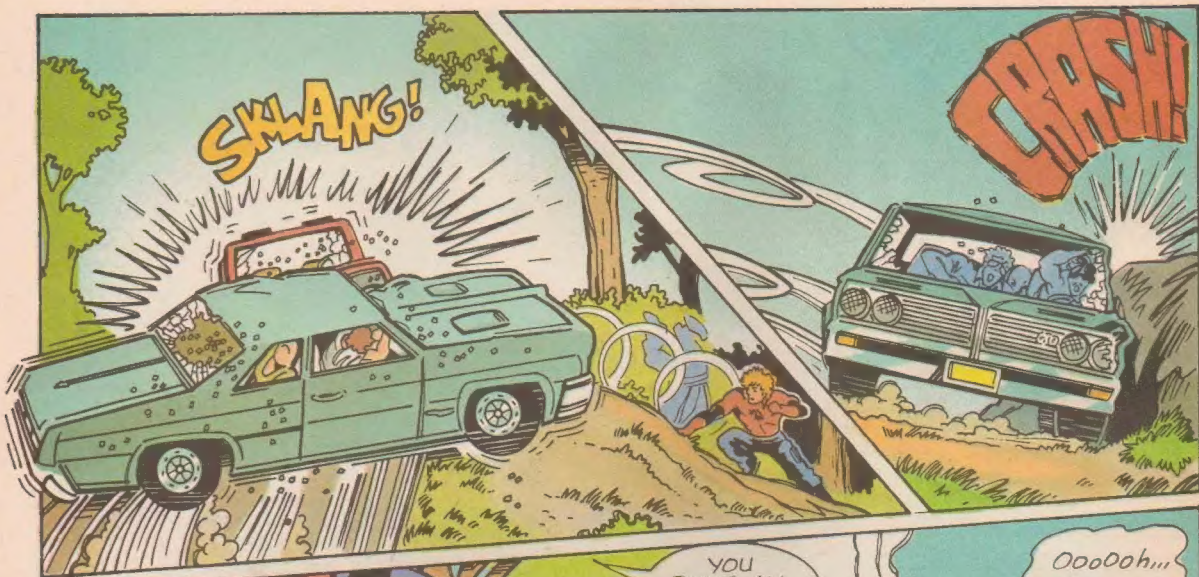
LETTERS
KURT
HATHAWAY

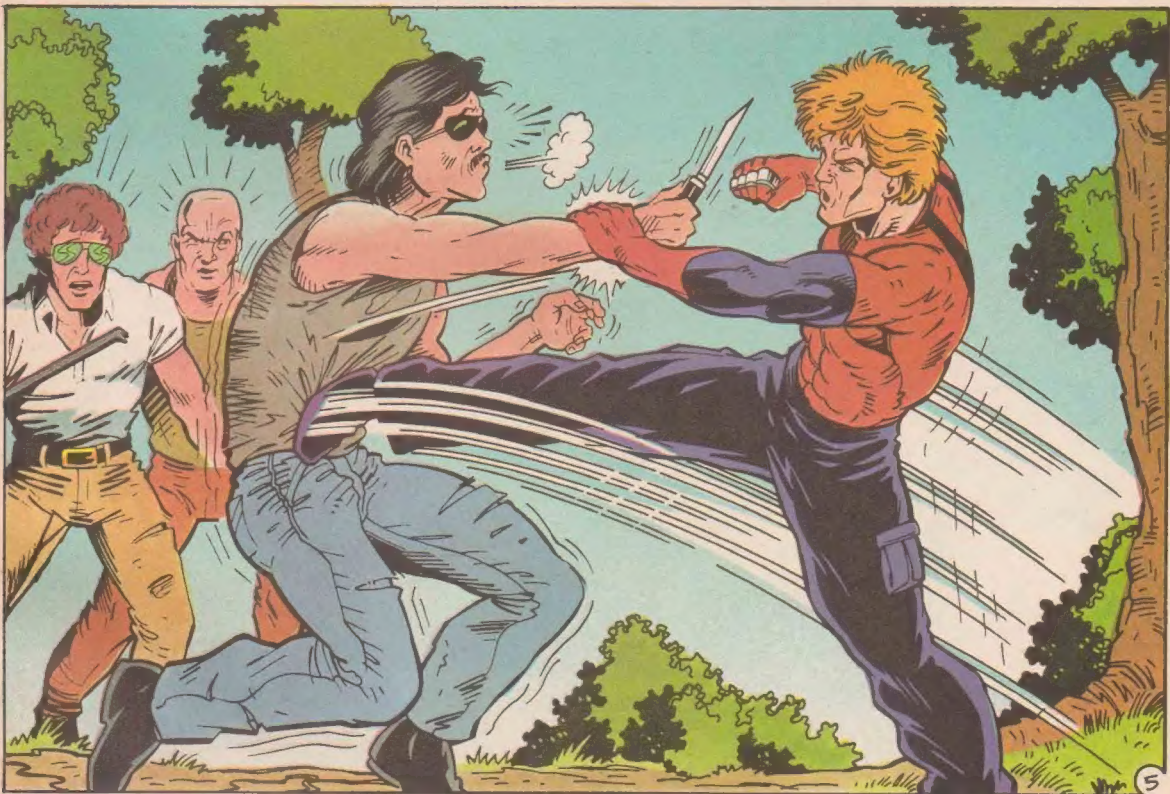
EDITOR
RICK
OLIVER

COVER
MIKE
ZECK











BOYS, YOU HAVE HURT ME DEEPLY.

HEY, SUCKER, THIS AINT THE END OF IT! NOBODY MESSSES WITH US LIKE THIS...

YOU TELL HIM, ANDY!

GRRRR

BOYS, YOU ASTOUND ME. YOU MAKE ME DESPAIR FOR THE FUTURE OF THE SPECIES. BUT IF YOU PERSIST, YOU CAN DIS-APPEAR JUST LIKE SOAP BUBBLES.



YOU THINK YOU'RE SOME KIND OF HOT TUNA KUNG FU EXPERT ?! YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE MESSING WITH! WE'RE GONNA GET THAT STINKIN' DOG, TOO!

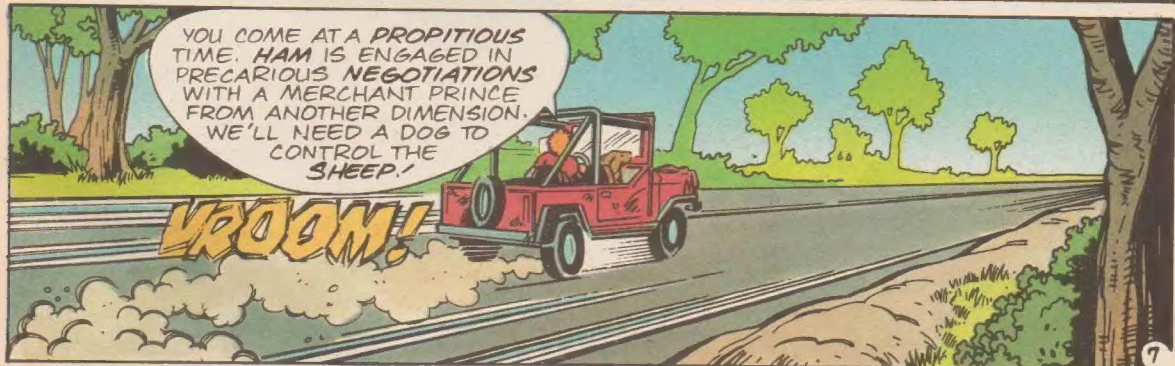


GRRRRR-

HEY, GODDAMN IT!!



I'M GON' KILL THAT DOG SLOW!



YOU COME AT A PROPITIOUS TIME. HAM IS ENGAGED IN PRECARIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH A MERCHANT PRINCE FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION. WE'LL NEED A DOG TO CONTROL THE SHEEP!

VROOOM!



HE NEEDS THE SHEEP TO TRADE TO COUNT KOHLER IN EXCHANGE FOR WAFFENPOOF. HAM WILL ATTEMPT TO BREED THE WAFFENPOOF FOR THE MEAT AND SKIN. AND THEN WE SHALL NEED A GOOD DOG TO CONTROL THE WAFFENPOOF...



ARE YOU A GOOD DOG?

WOOF!

YES, BUT DO YOU HAVE REFERENCES?

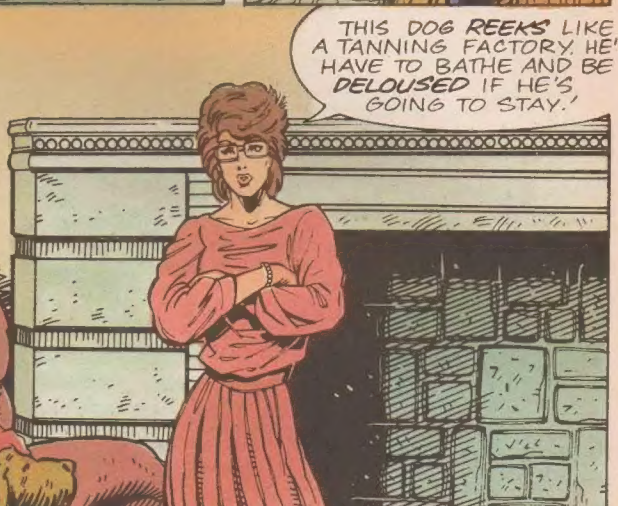


HALT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THAT FILTHY MUTT?

DAISY, THIS DOG IS PART OF HAM'S GRAND SCHEME TO TRADE SHEEP FOR WAFFENPOOF...



WE SHALL NEED A GOOD DOG TO DEAL WITH MARAUDING WAFFENPOOF, AND I HAVE IT ON EXCELLENT AUTHORITY THAT THIS IS A VERY GOOD DOG.



THIS DOG REEKS LIKE A TANNING FACTORY. HE'LL HAVE TO BATHE AND BE DELOUSED IF HE'S GOING TO STAY.

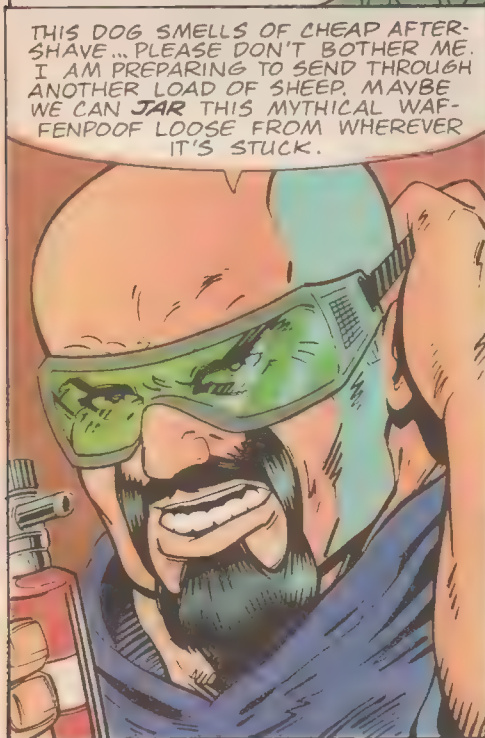


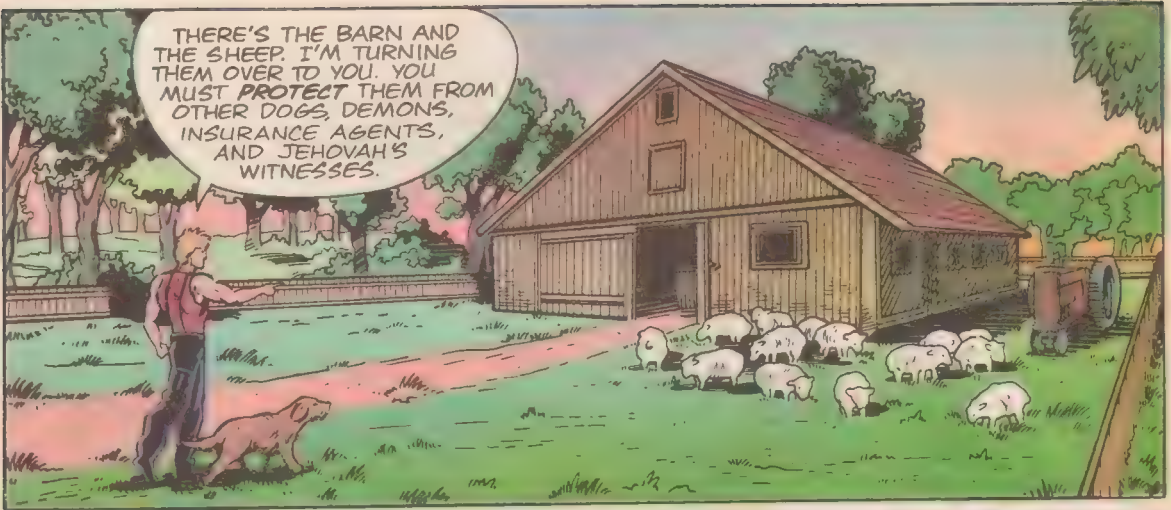
THIS ISN'T A BAD IDEA. YOU'LL WANT TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION.



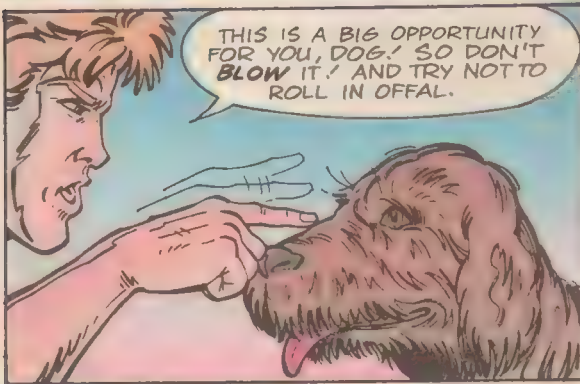
PLEASE DON'T BE SHOCKED AT ANYTHING YOU SEE, AND PLEASE DON'T EAT ANYTHING.

NOT NOX





THERE'S THE BARN AND THE SHEEP. I'M TURNING THEM OVER TO YOU. YOU MUST **PROTECT** THEM FROM OTHER DOGS, DEMONS, INSURANCE AGENTS, AND JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES.



THIS IS A BIG OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU, DOG. SO DON'T **BLOW** IT. AND TRY NOT TO ROLL IN OFFAL.



I'LL SEE YOU IN THE MORNING. MAYBE HAM WILL BE IN A BETTER MOOD.



BAAAA! **SHREK!**

YOWL!



ZOUNDS! WHAT'S THAT RACKET?!

BAAAA! **SHREK!**

BARK BARK

BARK



IF IT'S THAT
REEKING HOUND,
YOU SHALL PAY,
SIR!

I TOLD
YOU, HE'S
A GOOD
DOG.



INDEED, SIR! AND
WHAT DO YOU CALL
THIS?



THE
FILTHY BEAST
HAS SLAUGHTERED
HALF MY STOCK!



GRRRR!



I SHALL
TURN THE THANKLESS
WRETCH INTO A WORM!

DON'T
DO THAT,
HAM!



I SHALL! AN
EARTHWORM!
A B L O W!

HAM,
JUST A
DOSSONE
MINUTE!

FIRST NOTES

Do you have as much fun as I do at Christmas time? Do you spend 364 days anticipating the great event, with 363 of them spent avoiding the holiday shopping crowds? Do you go to the nearest shopping mall on December 24 with a list of 30 or 40 friends and associates for whom you're *really* going to get a present this year for sure, but with absolutely no idea what it will be, hoping to be inspired by some truly fascinating do-hickey in an obscure little shop? Do you pare the list down to your three closest relatives in desperation as the day wears on, trying to concoct some plausible explanation as to why you thought your father might actually want a pair of women's shoes? Do you feel it's a strong possibility that you may well strangle the next person who says "Surprise me" when you ask just what the hell it is they want for goddamn Christmas!?

Well, unlax, joyous holiday reveller. Your yuletide woes are a thing of past. Using the latest marketing focus group techniques and rigid scientific random sampling, we have compiled the Complete Christmas Checklist, guaranteed to make all your Christmas gifttees gasp in wonder. Of course, the focus group consists entirely of my one year old daughter, Kendall, and the random sample consists of books randomly strewn about my office. But it's probably better than what you've got so far . . . which most likely is nothing.

COMPLETE CHRISTMAS CHECKLIST

Cynicalman . . . The Paperback! By Matt Feazell.

In which Cynicalman battles a giant slug, foils the diabolical Dr. Pweent, teams up with the irrepressible Antisocialman, and spouts great dialog like, "Yikes, that's a *real* giant slug!" and "I hope nobody calls me with a dumb job today." The first 12 issues of *The Amazing Cynicalman* complete in one volume, plus guest appearances by Cutegirl, Stupid Boy, and the aforementioned Antisocialman. Who could ask for more? The perfect gift for anyone with anything resembling a sense of humor. From Thunder Bass Press.

Eddy Current

"A twelve hour book" by Ted McKeever. Eddy sent away for the Dynamic Fusion Suit. It's guaranteed to magnify Eddy's strength "lots of times." Eddy has twelve hours to save the world. Eddy knows his mission is difficult. ("I attempt to still their hearts with fear . . . I must look like a real jerk.") Eddy hates Elvis movies. Eddy just escaped from the asylum. He's my kinda guy. This is not a comic for everyone . . . but it *should* be. Guaranteed to alienate *X-Men* fanatics. From Mad Dog Graphics.

Sam & Max, Freelance Police By Steve Purcell.

Sam is a dog, and Max is a bunny . . . sort of. They're real cute. They have real big guns. They fight urban crime. They park illegally because Max can't see over the top of the steering wheel. A tightly plotted comic masterpiece in which the villainous psychic surgeon spontaneously combusts just when you thought there was no possible escape for our heroes. Well, it's better than waking up from a horrible dream in which you're married to both Lois Lane and Lana Lang, isn't it? Guaranteed to outrage the medical community. From Fishwrap Graphics.

Space Ghost

By Steve Rude and Mark Evanier
The cartoon character that inspired the Dude to create the visual image of *Nexus*, possibly the greatest comic book of all time. Guaranteed to prevent Steve from rendering me senseless. From Comico.

Munden's Bar Annual

By Mike Baron, Hilary Barta, Brian Bolland, Del Close, Matt Feazell, Steve Moncuse, Jerry Ordway, John Ostrander, Steve Rude, and Joe Staton. Three classic favorites, three brand new stories, 48 full-color pages, all for only \$2.95. On sale now! From First Comics.

Hey, you didn't think I'd get out of this without plugging at least one of *our* books, did you?

—Rick Oliver

FIRST IN DECEMBER

Lone Wolf and Cub #8: By Kazuo Koike and Goseki Kojima. Cover and introduction by Frank Miller. 64 pages. Black-and-white. \$2.50.

Badger #34: Ham and Badger square off against a horde of biker demons from hell! Part one of two by Mike Baron, Ron Lim. Cover by Mike Zeck. \$1.75.

Nexus #43: Guest artist Paul Smith joins writer Mike Baron and paints a "Portrait of Death." \$1.75.

Grimjack #45: The Demon Gate is open and the Dancer's reign of terror begins. By John Ostrander and Tom Mandrake.

Psychoblast #6: Can Psychoblast survive "Psych-Out?" By Steven Grant, Robb Phipps and Al Vey. \$1.75.

Whisper #12: Christmas cheer turns to fear when a psychotic killer makes a list and checks it twice — steal the Whisper costume and murder Di Young! By Steven Grant and Rich Larson. Cover by Bill Sienkiewicz.

Munden's Bar Annual #1: Hey, how about that? Two plugs on one page. Look over to your left and down for more exciting info of this extravaganza. Cover by Jerry Ordway. \$2.95.

Elric #5: The Albino Prince must fight his way through the Beggar Army, the mystical Horsemen of Tanelorn and the vampiric Elenoin, to reclaim his stolen Ring of Kings. By Roy Thomas and Jan Duursema. Bi-monthly series. \$1.75.

Sable: Return of the Hunter #2: In war torn Tehran, Sable seeks revenge for the death of a friend. By Marv Wolfman and Bill Jaaska. \$1.75.

Shatter #14: Daley city is dying, and only those in self-contained, sealed biospheres will survive — and only Shatter can save the rest of the world! By Jay Case and Charlie Athanas. Bi-monthly series. \$1.75.

AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE PSYCHO IN HIS FIRST GRAPHIC NOVEL **HEXBREAKER**

A BADGER GRAPHIC NOVEL

BY MIKE BARON

AND BILL REINHOLD

64 PAGES

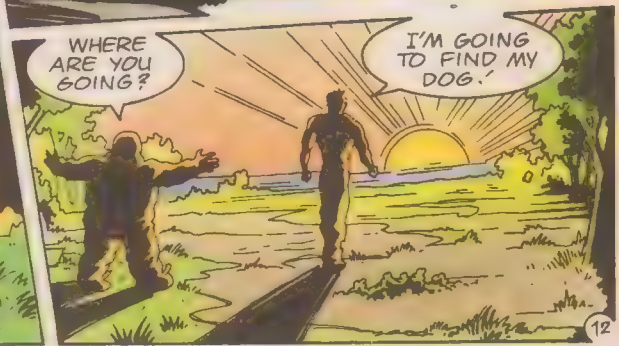
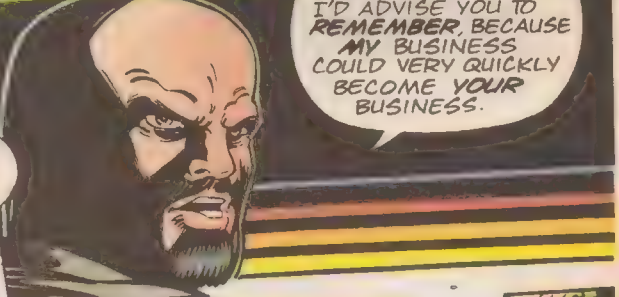
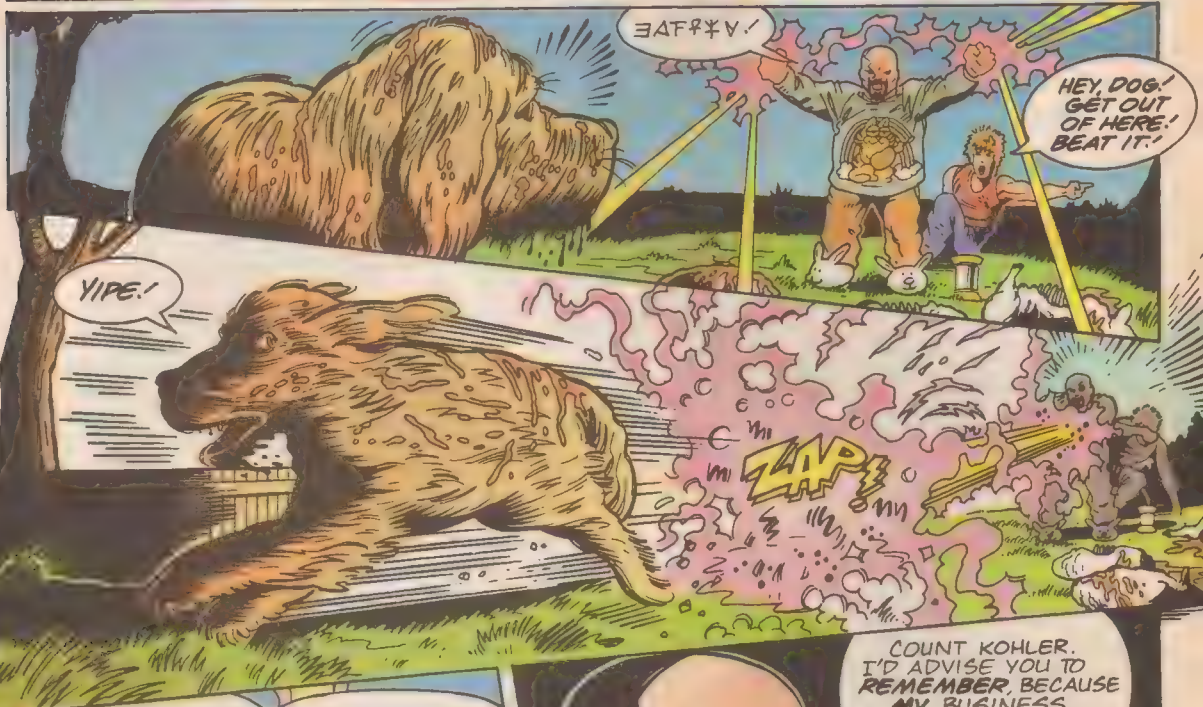
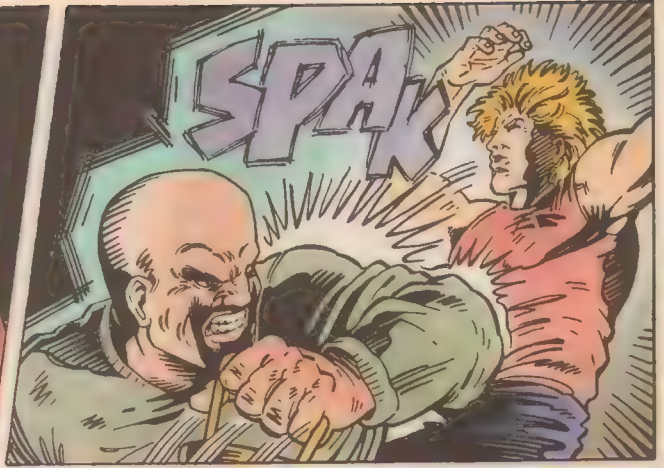
FULL COLOR

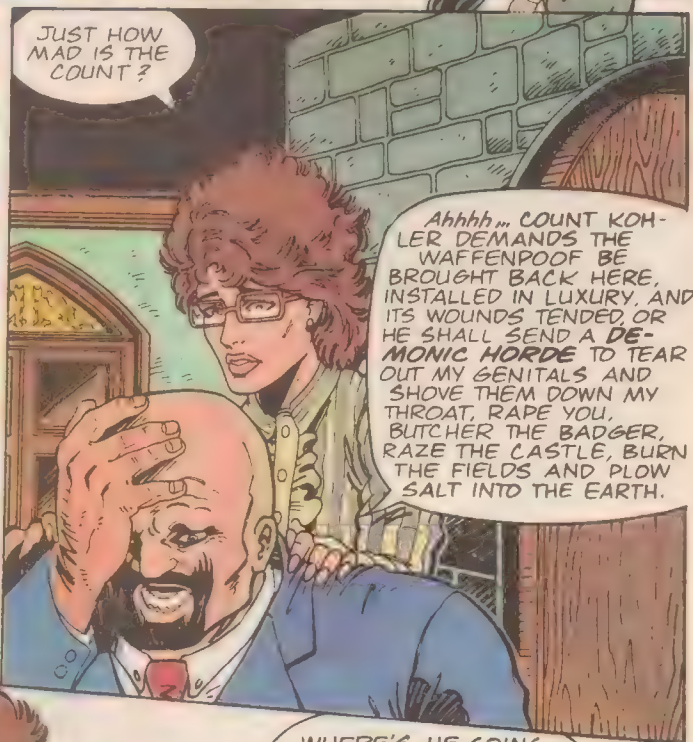
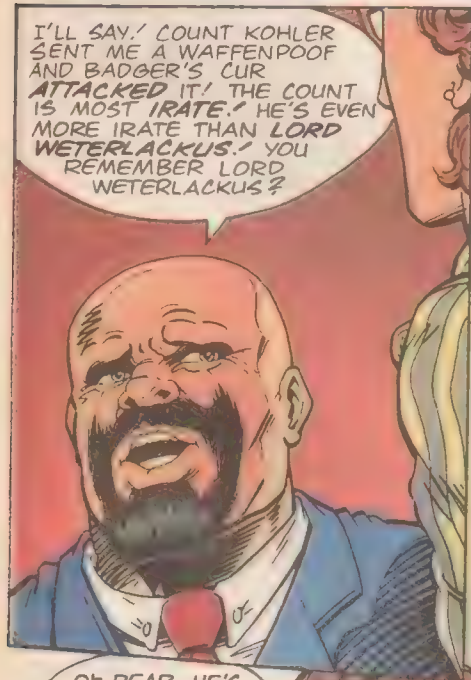
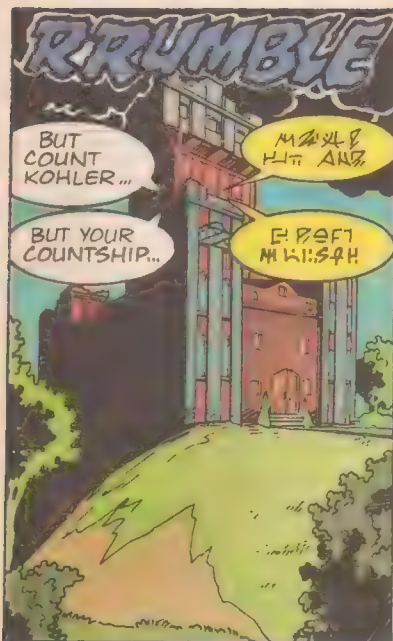
ALL NEW

COMING SOON FROM

FIRST
PUBLISHING
COUNT ON US.

TM & © 1987 FIRST COMICS, INC.

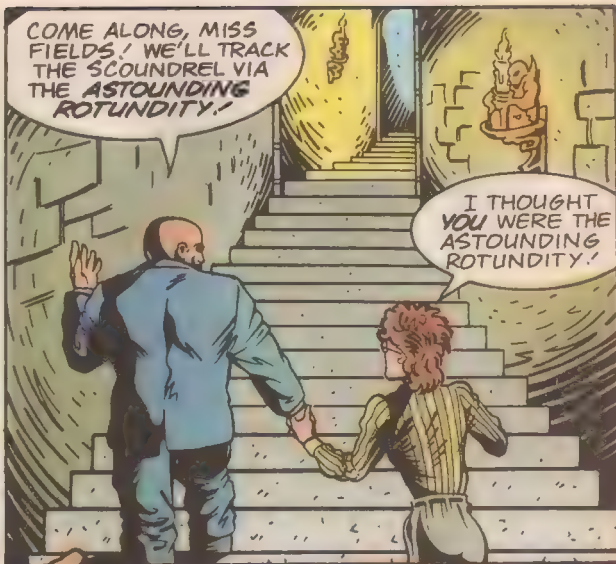




DO? WE SHALL SET
THE **BADGER** UPON
THIS FOOTLOOSE
CREATURE. THIS IS
WHY I PAY HIM.

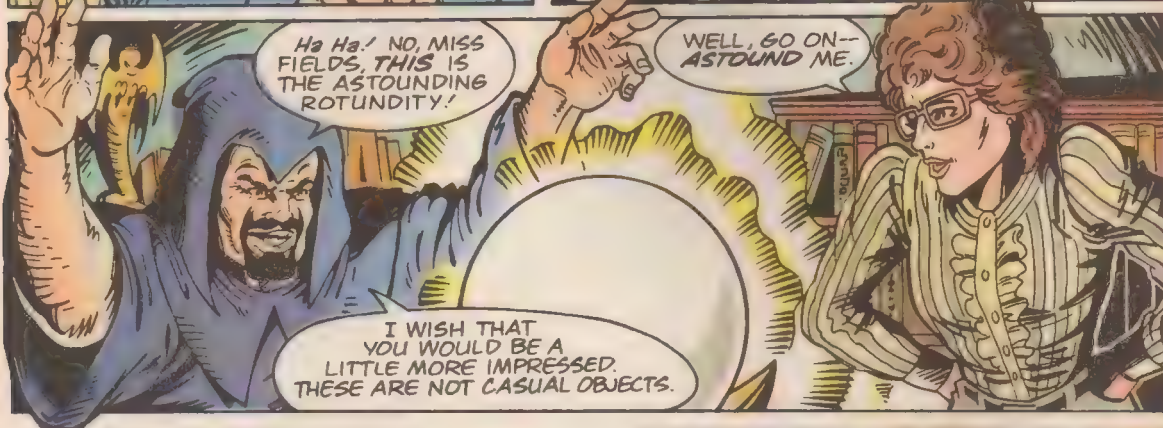


COME ALONG, MISS
FIELDS. WE'LL TRACK
THE SCOUNDREL VIA
THE **ASTOUNDING**
ROTUNDITY.



I THOUGHT
YOU WERE THE
ASTOUNDING
ROTUNDITY.

Ha Ha! NO, MISS
FIELDS, **THIS** IS
THE ASTOUNDING
ROTUNDITY!



WELL, GO ON--
ASTOUND ME.

I WISH THAT
YOU WOULD BE A
LITTLE MORE IMPRESSED.
THESE ARE NOT CASUAL OBJECTS.

I'M SORRY -- HOW'S THIS --
OH, WOW! THAT'S THE
FABULOUS ASTOUNDING
ROTUNDITY ??!! I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT'S SO --
SO ROUND!!



THERE ARE THOSE
WHO WOULD KILL
TO SEE THIS ...
"mumble,
grumble"

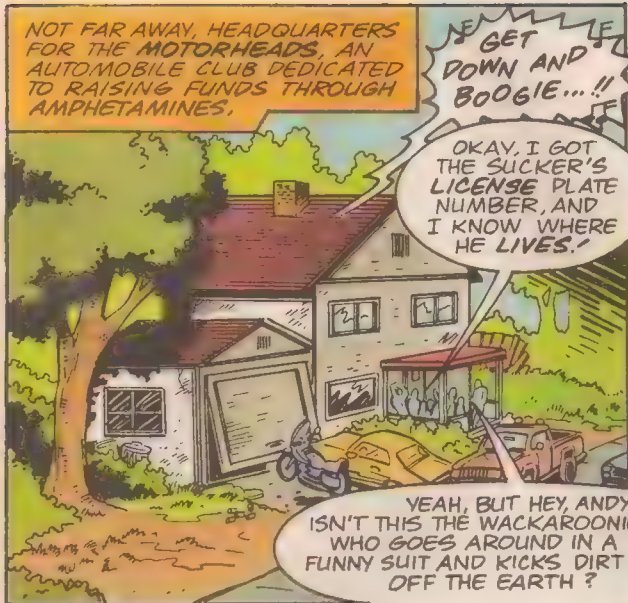
WELL ?



THAT'S ENOUGH,
DAISY. HAVE SOME
PATIENCE.



ALL RIGHT!
NEVER MIND. BE
STILL, WILL YOU ?!



NOT FAR AWAY, HEADQUARTERS FOR THE MOTORHEADS, AN AUTOMOBILE CLUB DEDICATED TO RAISING FUNDS THROUGH AMPHETAMINES.

GET DOWN AND BOOGIE...!!

OKAY, I GOT THE SUCKER'S LICENSE PLATE NUMBER, AND I KNOW WHERE HE LIVES.

YEAH, BUT HEY, ANDY... ISN'T THIS THE WACKAROODIE WHO GOES AROUND IN A FUNNY SUIT AND KICKS DIRT OFF THE EARTH?



YEAH, SURE, CALLS HIMSELF THE BADGER. HOW CAN YOU BE AFRAID OF ANYONE WHO...

I AIN'T AFRAID OF ANYONE.



OKAY THEN! WE HAVE TO TEACH THIS GUY A LESSON OR ANYBODY'LL THINK THEY CAN WALK ALL OVER US. AND THEN WHERE'LL WE BE? HUH?!



NOW I SAY WE GO TO THE BADGER'S BURROW, AND STOMP HIS BUTT! HOW 'BOUT IT?

YEAH!



NOW I SAY WE GRAB OUR STICKS AND STONES AND HIT THE ROAD!

ALL RIGHT!

ROCK AND ROLL!



WHAT THE--?!

WHAT IS IT?



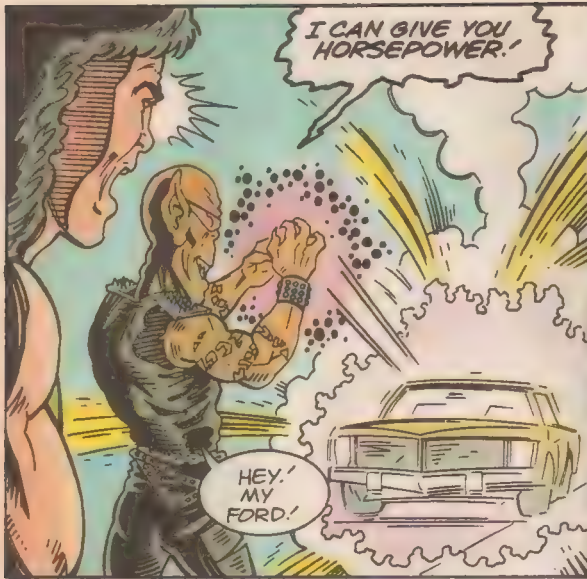
MOTORHEADS--
GOT A DEAL
FOR YOU--

YOU BOYS LIKE
TO ROCK N' ROLL?
YOU BOYS LIKE
TO PARTY?



WHO THE
HELL ARE
YOU?

I'M
COUNT
KOHLE!!



A NUMBER YOU'LL NEVER FORGET

HOWARD CHAYKIN'S

AMERICAN
FLAGG!

NUMBER

ONE!

a new year.

a new beginning.

a new series.

Coming in
January
from



TM & © 1987 FIRST COMICS, INC. and HOWARD CHAYKIN INC.

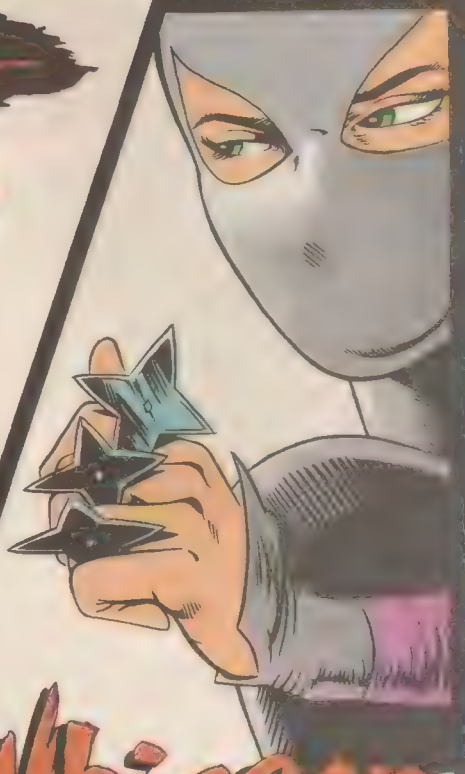
CHECK OUT THESE NUMBERS

EVANGELINE

NUMBER **7**

NEW ART TEAM
JOHN STATEMA
& JIM BAUER

COMING IN JANUARY



Whisper

NUMBER

13

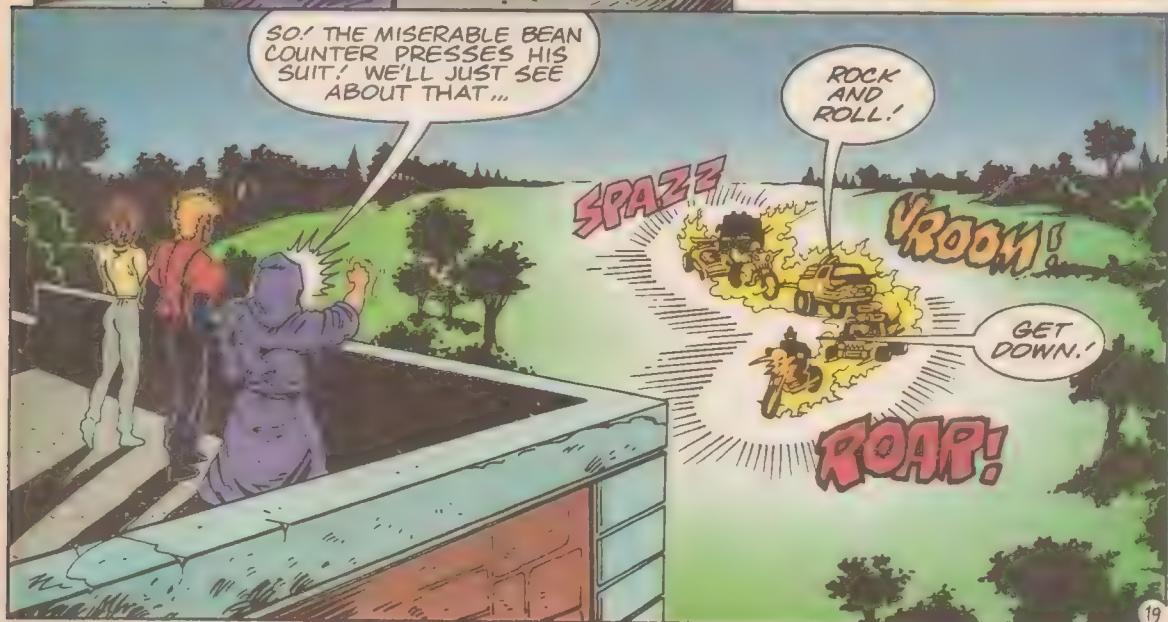
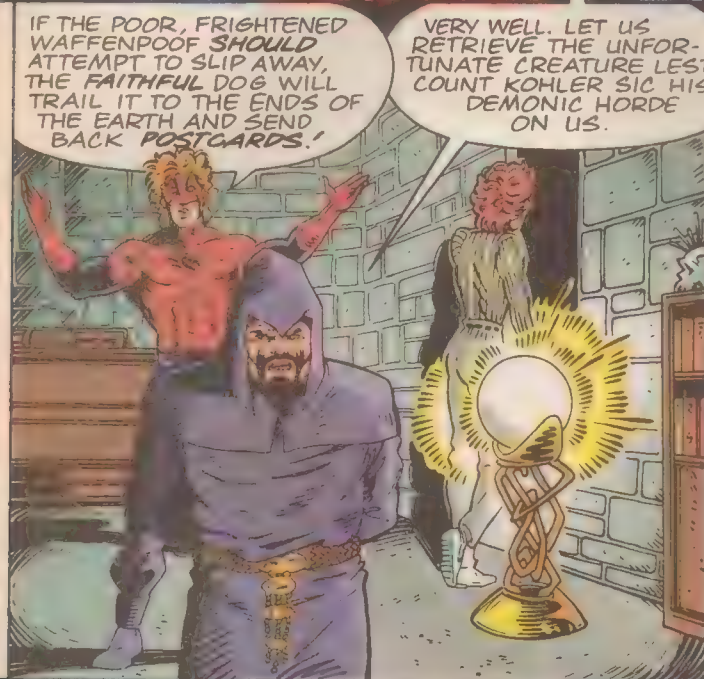
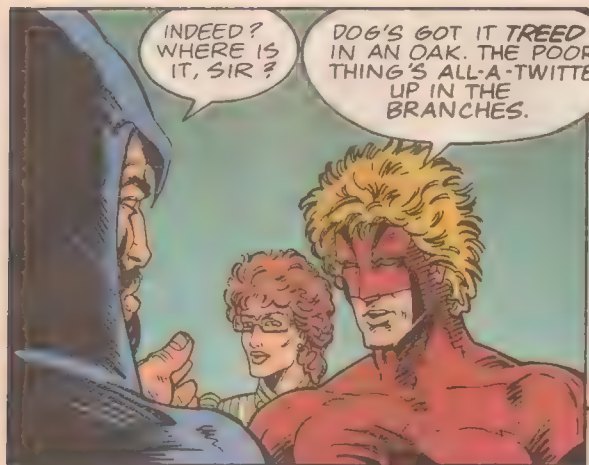
NOW MONTHLY

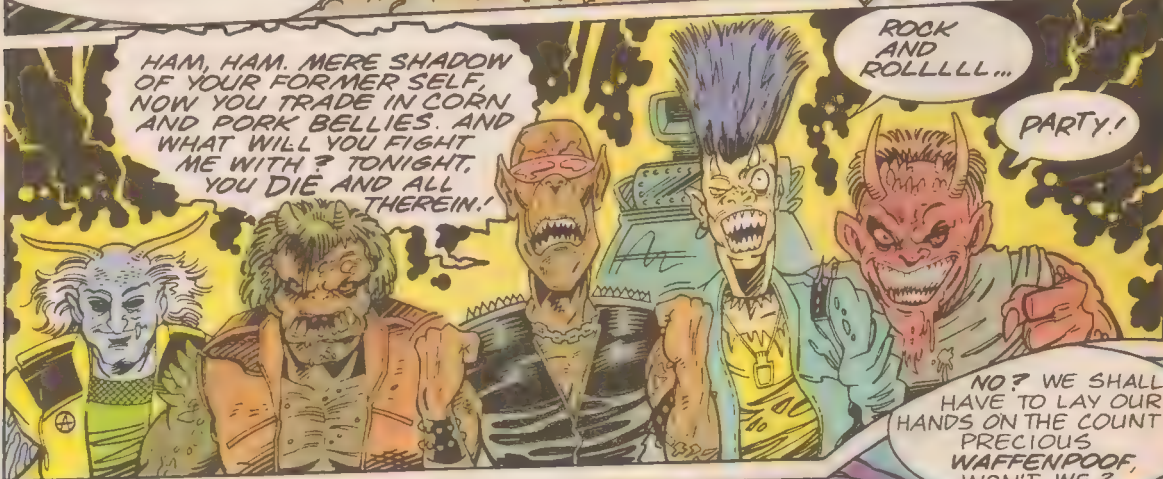
NEW ARTIST
SPYDER

COMING IN FEBRUARY

FIRST
COMICS
COUNT ON US.
© 1987 FIRST COMICS, INC.







SAFETY FIRST!

TALES from the CLONEZONE

"THANKS AND A TIP OF THE TAIL TO RUSSELL PERGAMENT OF NEWTON, MASS."

TOO TALL, WE GOOFED! THESE CHILDREN'S PAJAMAS ARE MORE FLAMMABLE THAN ETHNIC JOKES! WE COULD SELL 'EM FOR CHARCOAL LIGHTER!



WORDS: BARON
PICTURES: DOONEY
COLORS: FEDUNIEWICZ
LETTERS: BUHALIS

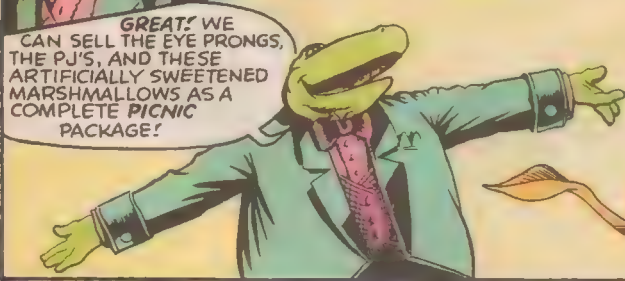
LOOK AT THIS STUFF!



A FINE HOW-DO-YOU-DO! WE ONLY STOCKED TWO TONS OF THIS JUNK!

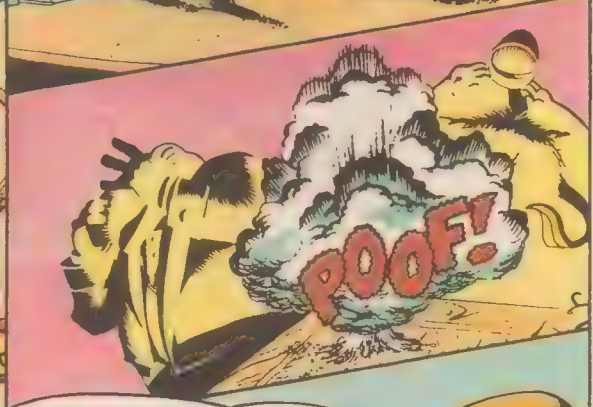


FORGET THE FLAMMABLE PJ'S, ZONE--YOU KNOW THAT LATEST SHIPMENT OF GARBAGE PATCH DOLLS?

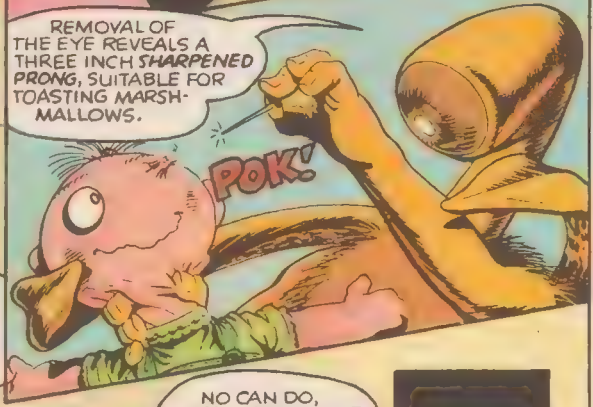


GREAT! WE CAN SELL THE EYE PRONGS, THE PJ'S, AND THESE ARTIFICIALLY SWEETENED MARSHMALLOWS AS A COMPLETE PICNIC PACKAGE!

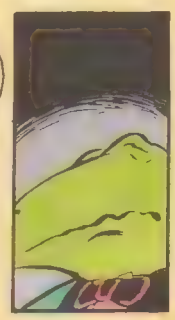
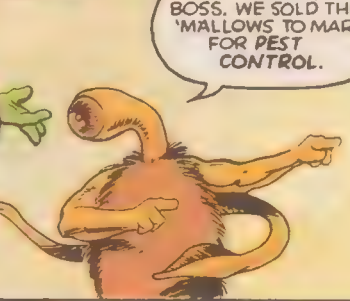
POOF!

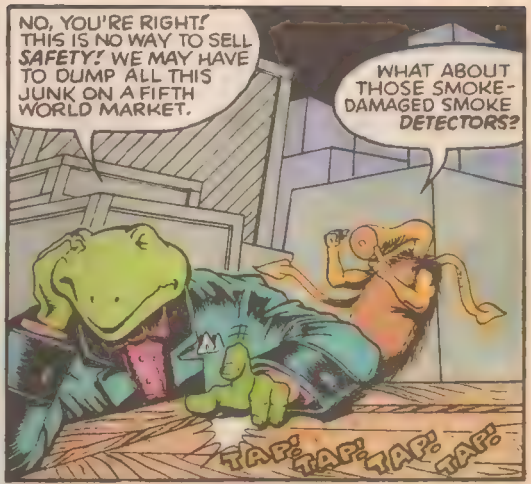
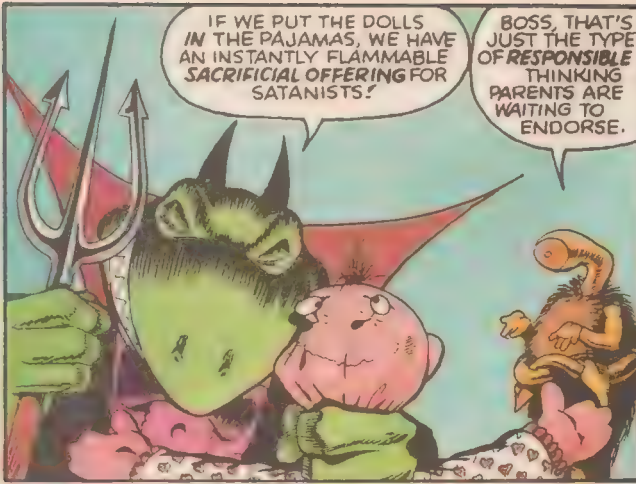


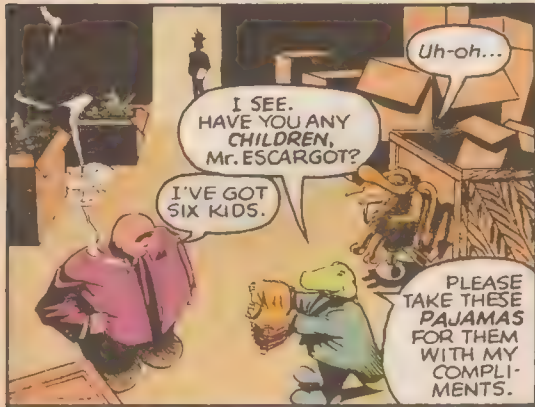
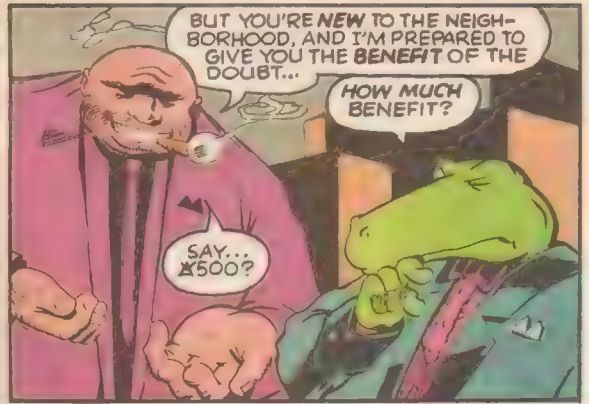
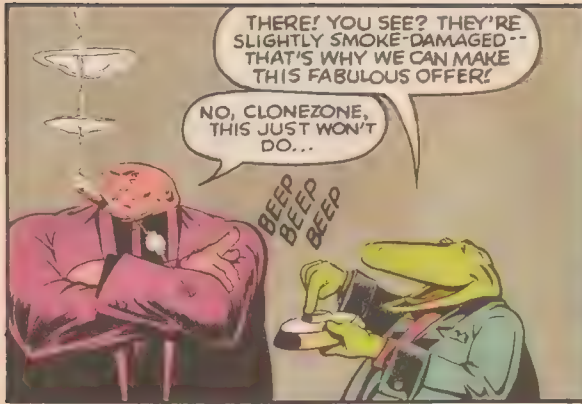
REMOVAL OF THE EYE REVEALS A THREE INCH SHARPENED PRONG, SUITABLE FOR TOASTING MARSHMALLOWS.

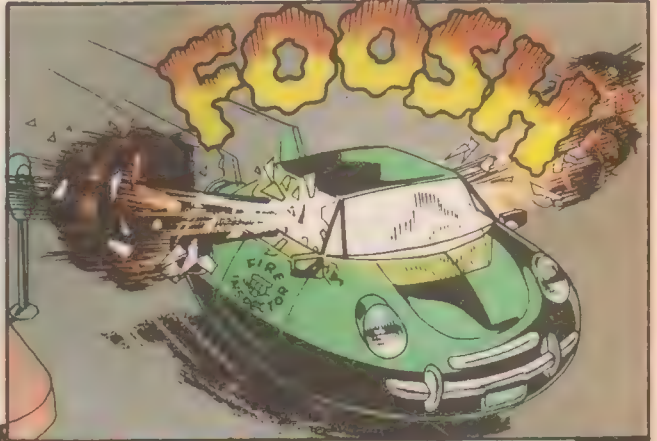
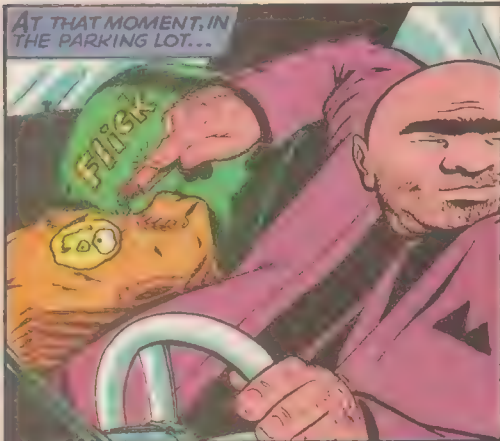
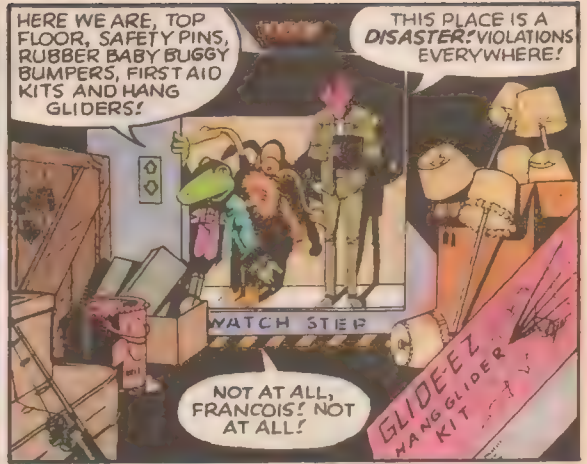


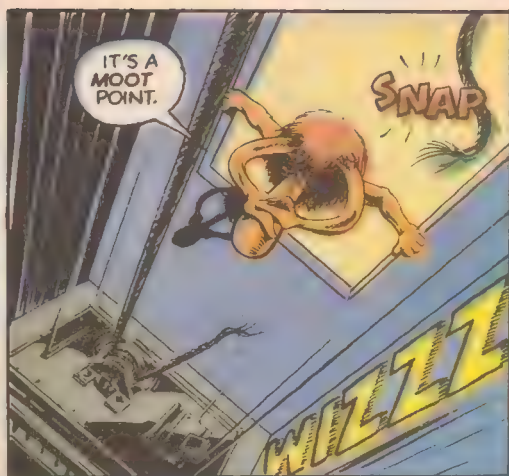
NO CAN DO, BOSS. WE SOLD THE 'MALLOWS TO MARS FOR PEST CONTROL.







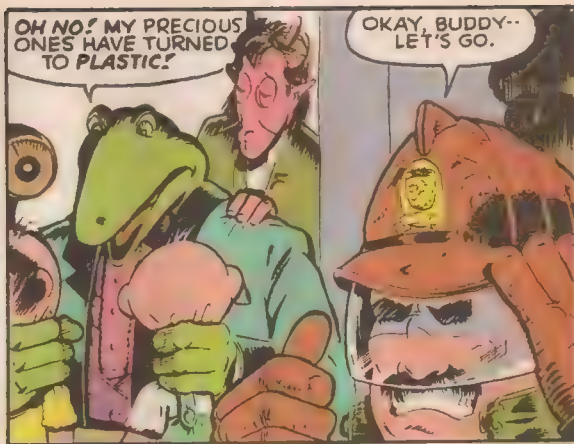






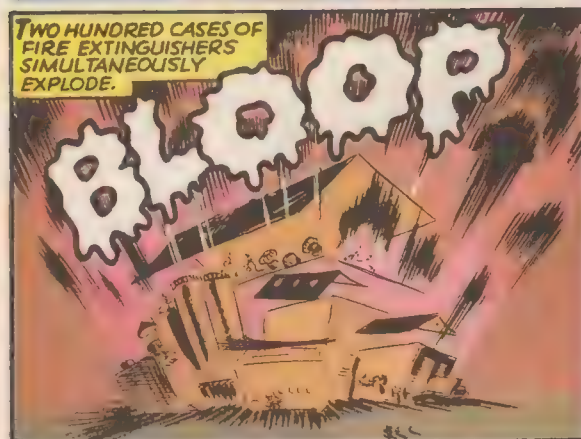
I'VE GOT THEM! I'VE GOT THE PRECIOUS LITTLE ONES!

TAKE IT EASY, BUDDY! THOSE ARE JUST DOLLS...

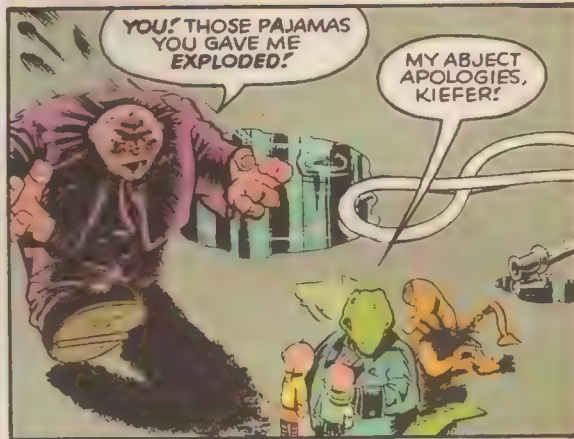


OH NO! MY PRECIOUS ONES HAVE TURNED TO PLASTIC!

OKAY, BUDDY-- LET'S GO.



TWO HUNDRED CASES OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS SIMULTANEOUSLY EXPLODE.



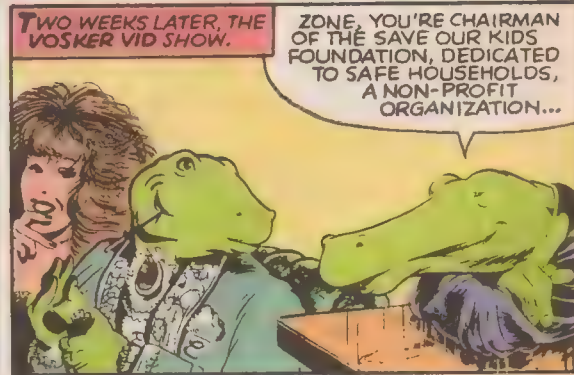
YOU! THOSE PAJAMAS YOU GAVE ME EXPLODED!

MY ABJECT APOLOGIES, KIEFER!



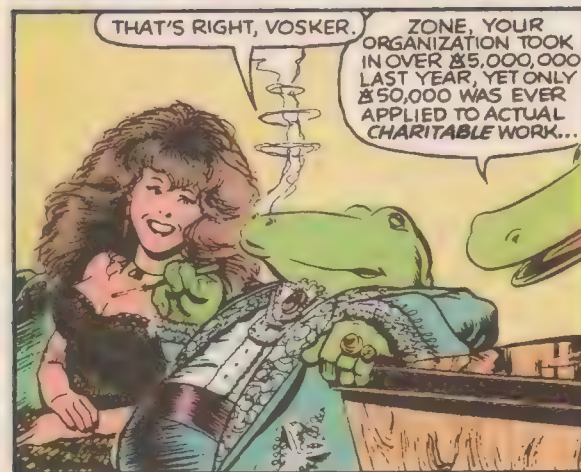
PLEASE ACCEPT THESE GENUINE GARBAGE PATCH DOLLS IN EXCHANGE!

WELL, OKAY. BUT I'LL BE BACK. THIS IS GOING TO REQUIRE CONSTANT SUPERVISION.



TWO WEEKS LATER, THE VOSKER VID SHOW.

ZONE, YOU'RE CHAIRMAN OF THE SAVE OUR KIDS FOUNDATION, DEDICATED TO SAFE HOUSEHOLDS, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION...



THAT'S RIGHT, VOSKER.

ZONE, YOUR ORGANIZATION TOOK IN OVER \$5,000,000 LAST YEAR, YET ONLY \$50,000 WAS EVER APPLIED TO ACTUAL CHARITABLE WORK...



VOSKER, ANY PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATION OF THIS SCOPE INVARIABLY ENCOUNTERS CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES...

FIN

Dear LARRY,:

C/O FIRST COMICS
435 N. LASALLE
CHICAGO IL
60610

Dear Larry,

I had no idea when I wrote to you that I would be quoted in large print. Obviously, this distinction has prompted a nasty response from a vehement Clonezone hater. (Please see the enclosed copy of this letter.)

When I first received this letter, I was incredibly upset. But then again, earlier in that day I had had a particularly nasty argument with my boss at work and thought that this letter was from her, until I got to the second paragraph. After examining the second paragraph and the postmark, I realized the author was some crazy from California.

I had no idea people took comic book characters so seriously! It all seems so silly to me. Perhaps this is foolish, but I feel I must critique this person's letter for the benefit of the other "Dear Larry" readers. (Hopefully, the Clonezone Hater's letter will be printed with mine.)

First Paragraph:

It is impossible to stuff a pincushion up a clitoris. A clitoris is a small nodule of nerves of about one quarter inch in diameter with no sizeable hollow spot to shove anything up into. Maybe if you could manufacture a microscopic size pincushion you could do it, but I doubt you could get the pins to stick out in any damaging manner. I think the word the Clonezone critic was looking for is "vagina." Another minor point is that women do not have adam's apples.

On to the Second Paragraph:

I am not a whore, nor have I ever "gurgled" pus. I am a nice, fairly intelligent woman who is happily married to an extremely jealous man who gets upset if I smile at other men. 'Nough said? Good. I will not go to

Hell to meet my maker, because I believe, as all Catholics do, that God was my creator and God does not live in Hell. I may go to Hell (though Lord knows I pray I won't) but my maker won't be there. It seems the author of this letter slept through both anatomy and religion classes in high school. Oh well, one of your staff members said that the Clonezone supporters were the intelligent ones, didn't he?

As to corresponding with people who despise Clonezone, I believe I am not guilty at all. I did not intend to be offensive with my first letter — there are lots worse things to call people than idiots and twits, as this Clonezone critic has proven. I thought the "Dear Larry" column was for all people who read Badger regardless of whether they are pro or con Clonezone. If you, oh Anti-Clonezone person, had wished me to correspond with you, wouldn't you have signed your name on the letter? Only a coward sends unsigned letters.

As for my life ending before I expect, I am not worried about this possibility. I doubt anyone would take the Clonezone question seriously enough to risk jail by killing me. There are other people who would probably be more logical targets, such as the staff of First Comics who created Clonezone in the first place.

My last point on this letter is that yes, the Badger is a hero. According to Webster's Dictionary definition 2a for "hero," the Badger does fit the description of being "the principal male character in a literary or dramatic work." He may not be a superhero like Batman or Nexus, but he is a principal character. If he were a perfect superhero, I probably would not read this magazine.

OK. I've critiqued the letter. I've

gotten it off my chest and I feel better. My next concern is that this kind of abuse doesn't happen again. I hear this happens all the time to other women who write to comic books, which makes it seem that the female readership is low due to the dearth of letters from women. Maybe in the future, people who write to First Comics shouldn't have their addresses printed for privacy's sake. If someone wished to correspond with a letter-writer, his response should be sent through the editor as it is done in other magazines. Maybe I'm being too sensitive about the whole thing, but I really don't relish the thought of what my next piece of mail from the Clonezone Hater will be like. Can you blame me?

Anyway, despite my bitching, I still really enjoy reading the Badger and Clonezone and encourage the First Comics' staff to continue putting out such entertaining work.

P.S. Please don't print my address again. Thanks.

Sarah L. Beiting

I decided not to print the copy of the letter you received, Sarah. Why waste valuable paper on maniacal drivel? Besides, I think people get the idea from your thorough response.

To all our letter writers: if you don't want us to publish your address, please say so in your letter.

To the disturbed individual who wrote the obscene death threat: seek therapy and stop taking comic books so seriously. If Clonezone affects you so adversely, stop reading Badger. We don't need readers like you.

Dear Editor,

It is becoming more and more

"Try to fulfill everyone's wants at the same time and then you will have what they want. And do it soon! I'm afraid I'll never see Daisy again, or that stupid wizard!"

evident that the answers to all the letters you get are becoming excuses for your shortcomings. More and more of, "Well if you look at my response to so-and-so's letter you see that we featured Ham 3.21946 pages in the past issue and we assure you he will be called by his full name in issue 32." (Exaggerated, of course.) When people try to point out why the Badger has lost it, all you do is say how much you plan to feature their favorite personality next time.

Don't get me wrong, the Badger is one of my favorite comics but I miss the days when I could quote to my mother things like "East? I wanna go home, I've already missed a whole month of the People Court!" When fans write in you ignore what they truly mean to say, that a three part story with Riley isn't going to do it! We need silliness, ridiculous demons, more confrontations in bars, more surfing and turning people into chickens.

So don't just deal with what people want, work on the book as a whole. Try to fulfill everyone's wants at the same time and then you will have what they want. And do it soon! I'm afraid I'll never see Daisy again, or that stupid wizard!

Bill Guy
2117 Wilson Street
Durham, NC 27705

You're kidding, right? "Fulfill everyone's wants?" Let's see, that means we'd have every issue drawn by Bill Reinhold... I mean Jeffrey Butler... no wait, Eric Shanower... and we'd dump Clonezone... I mean, keep Clonezone... we'd have bi-monthly 26 page stories... no, make that monthly 20 pagers... you get the idea.

As for Daisy and Ham, avoid reading the issue in your hands — and the one next month — so you won't feel too foolish.

Dear Editors, etc.,

I am writing to you because I think that your company deserves some praise for its accomplishments in the comics field. Yours is the only comic company I've encountered that has taken its success and not used it to randomly produce multiple titles so as to merely appease your reader's lustful appetites. Instead, you thoughtfully choose certain titles to appeal to a reader's tastes, and thus establish a line of long-lived titles to your good name.

In particular, I would like to say how much I enjoy two of your titles, Badger and Nexus, which both happen to be written by Mike Baron. Though Baron's writing is the best I've seen in a long time, I don't want you to get the idea that I think he is the only talented person working on these books. Steve Rude, of course, does a wonderful job on the art in Nexus, and Reinhold is doing some of the best art on Badger yet to be seen.

Anyway, I would like to compliment all the people associated with the Badger, the comic which originally enlightened me of your company's presence. I enjoy the idea of a crazy comic character (I can't bring myself to label him as a superhero, because he seems like so much more) because it is the perfect break from comic burnout, which afflicts too many comic fans as it is. The multi-personified Badger is a unique character that gives the reader a unique situation to read about, and thus be delightfully entertained. Ham is perfect alongside the Badger,

exploiting the crazier side to him, while Riley and Ng help us to explore the marital arts side of the Badger. Daisy has been a good stabilizer for him, while the rest of the characters have made up for a great supporting cast. Addressing the subject of Clonezone, I think he comes out very nicely, being funny in his own way, but more importantly he complements the Badger stories perfectly. Keep him going! (For all those people out there who want to kill him off, well you're all just a bunch of ninnys!) All in all, Badger makes for a very fun comic.

Todd Rugeroni
P.O. Box 8126
Porterville, CA 93258



NEXT MONTH: Badger, Ham, Daisy, and "Dog" invite some demon bikers over for a "Rock and Roll Party." By Mike Baron, Ron Lim, and Jay Geldhof.

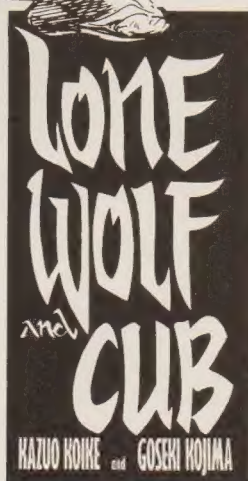
—Rick Oliver

**The international publishing event of the year.
The most popular Japanese comic of all time.
A sophisticated epic of Japan's violent past.
A timeless masterpiece.
And more...**

It's also a bargain.



**LONE WOLF AND CUB #9
72 PAGES FOR ONLY \$2.50.
COVER BY FRANK MILLER**



Coming in January from **FIRST PUBLISHING**

TM & © 1987 FIRST COMICS, INC. and GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS CORP.

KEVIN EASTMAN

PETER LAIRD

DAVE SIM

TURTLES

CEREBUS

FULL COLOR

128 PAGES

**TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA
TURTLES
BOOK III**

\$9.95

**FROM FIRST COMICS
ON SALE NOW**

**WHAT MORE COULD
YOU ASK FOR?**

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles © & TM 1987 Mirage Studios
Cerebus © & TM 1987 Dave Sim
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Book III © 1987 First Comics Inc.

FIRST
GRAPHIC NOVEL